Minneapolis Police Property and Evidence Unit

Unit Supervisor – Kerstin Hammarberg





Property and Evidence Unit Mission

 To provide the highest level of integrity in the handling, storage, and disposal of property and evidence received into the unit.





Property and Evidence Unit Functions

- Handling of all property and evidence confiscated by Minneapolis Police officers and investigators
- Packaging and labeling appropriate for storage
- Property and evidence storage
 - Short-term Storage (Hours to 4 years)
 - Long-term Storage (Indefinitely)
- Preservation
- Chain-of-Custody documentation

- Firearms background checks
- Pawn Shop recovery
- Transportation (between 3 storage facilities, Precincts, City Hall, Court)
- Return of property to rightful owners
- Property disposal (Public auctions, transfers to other agencies, recycling, destruction)





Hours of Service

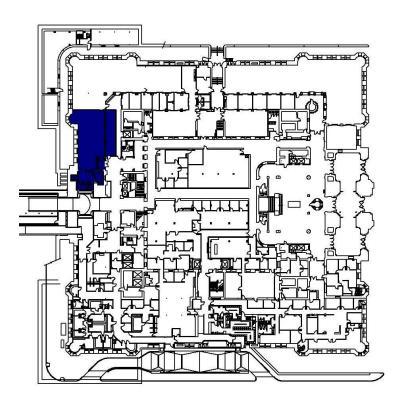
- South Warehouse
 - Monday-Friday only
 - 7am to 3:00pm
 - Service provided to MPD personnel and general public
- Northeast Warehouse
 - No public access
 - Not staffed
 - Storage only

- Room 33 City Hall
 - MPD staff ONLY
 - Mondays Saturday (16 hours per day)
 - General Public phones and service counter
 - Monday-Friday only, no weekends or holidays 12:00pm-6:00pm





Property and Evidence Unit Room 33 City Hall









Property and Evidence Warehouse 6024 Harriet Ave. S.

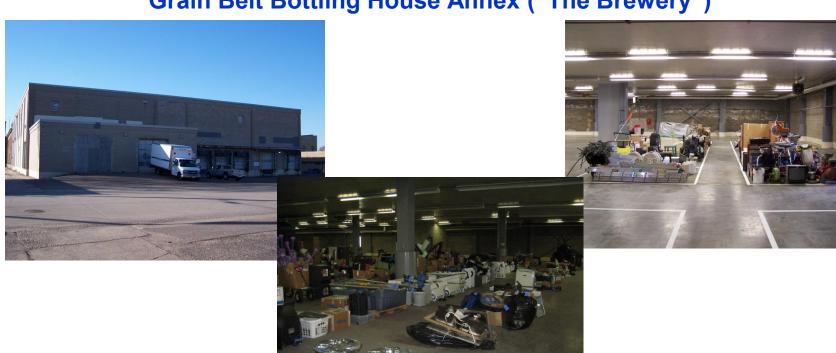






Property and Evidence NE Warehouse

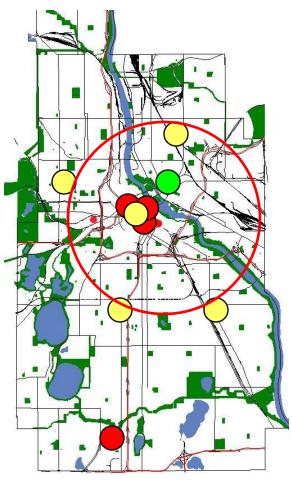
Grain Belt Bottling House Annex ("The Brewery")







Property and Evidence Locations



- Precincts
- Evidence Storage
 - City Hall
 - Fire Station No. 1 (530 3rd St. S.)
 - Bomb & Arson Unit (Haaf Ramp)
 - Warehouse (60th and Harriet)

Grain Belt Brewery

(Temporary Space)





Specialized Spaces – Narcotics Storage







Specialized Spaces – Firearms Storage







Specialized Spaces –

Cash and Jewelry Storage





Specialized Spaces –

Homicide/Sexual Assault Storage





Specialized Spaces –

Bicycle and Bulk Storage





Staffing

- 2 Police Support Technicians (PST1)
- 12 Evidence Technicians
- 1 Warehouse Supervisor
- 1 Unit Supervisor



Qualifications

All staff

- NCIC User certification through MN BCA
- Firearms handling certification through MPD Range
- City mandated training

Evidence Technicians

- Attend 2-day classroom training
- Successfully complete Evidence Management exam for certification
- "Certified Evidence Technician" status through International Association for Property and Evidence (IAPE)

Warehouse and Unit Supervisors

- Attend 2-day classroom training
- Successfully complete Evidence Management exam for certification
- "Certified Evidence Technician" status through International Association for Property and Evidence (IAPE)
- Certified Narcotics Testing from SIRCHE LABS

Unit Supervisor

- All the above qualifications
- Masters Degree Management
- Completed "Leadership Development Program" through City of Minneapolis
- Completed "Advanced Techniques in Property Room Management through R.A. Doran & Associates – Police Training Institute
- Currently serves as on International Association for Property and Evidence Board of Directors



Certifications

- IAPE has the only "Evidence Technician" certification available for Property and Evidence personnel nationwide
- All MPD Property and Evidence Unit staff expected to earn certification within first year of service
 - Certification status has made an impact on court testimony
- Future (2013) Property and Evidence Unit <u>ACCREDITATION</u> will be coming through IAPE
 - Will support accreditation of MPD Crime Lab Unit in requirements
 - Have discussed accreditation with Commander and Assistant Chief (strong support from both)

Policies, Procedures, and Audits

- Written policies and procedures for all Evidence Technicians
- Updates are done regularly based on accepted "best practices" in evidence management and Crime Lab needs for testing/analysis
- Regular meeting with CLU Supervisor to ensure best practices meet needs of accreditation
- The City's Internal Auditor has conducted audits of the Property and Evidence Unit about every other year

Priorities

- SPACE Current storage is at capacity effort to move into one location to be more efficient in operations and service
- RETENTION Courts changing retention schedules based on forensics – challenge to have appropriate space, climates, and conditions to best store evidence for long term
- TIME Every item that comes into the custody of the MPD has the element of time attached to it – intake, storage, retrieval, disposal
- ACCREDITATION When this option becomes available for Property and Evidence Units it needs to be a serious priority for the MPD's budget
- FLEXIBILITY FOR CHANGE Advancements are constantly being made in analysis which require new handling techniques and knowledge







